

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method of reproducing information in a client/server system ~~where a client is directly connected to a server via a network~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the client/server system where a client is directly connected to a server via a network;

providing an information recording medium containing characteristic information and having other information recorded thereon, the characteristic information identifying the information recording medium;

the client obtaining the characteristic information of the information recording medium;

the client transmitting the characteristic information to the server;

the server obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

subsequently, the server transmitting information based on the usage information to the client; and

subsequently, the client reproducing the other information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information,

wherein the other information reproduced by the client is recorded on the information recording medium prior to said providing step.

2. (Currently amended) A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, ~~where a client is directly connected to each of a first server and a second server via a network~~, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a client to each of a first server and a second server via a network;

the client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium, the characteristic information identifying the information recording medium;

the client transmitting the characteristic information to the first server;

the first server obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

the first server transmitting a first information based on the usage information to the second server containing a second information;

the second server transmitting ~~[[said]]~~ the second information to the client in accordance with the first information based on the usage information; and

the client reproducing other information based on the second information received from the second server,

wherein the other information reproduced by the client is recorded on the information recording medium prior to said ~~providing~~ obtaining step.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the client transmits the characteristic information to the first server via the second server.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A server providing information to a client using an information recording medium in response to a request of the client, the server comprising:

a storage part configured to store a program; and

a processor configured to implement a first part, a second part, and a third part in accordance with the program,

wherein the client is directly connected to the server via a network, and

wherein a first part is configured to receive characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client, the characteristic information identifying the information recording medium,

a second part is configured to obtain usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information,

a third part is configured to transmit to the client authentication information on authorization of reproduction of information from the information recording medium

based on the usage information, to enable the reproduction of said authentication information from the information recording medium, and

[[the]] other information reproduced by the client is recorded on the information recording medium before the first part receives the characteristic information.

6. (Previously presented) The server as claimed in claim 5, wherein the processor is configured to further implement a fourth part and a fifth part,

the fourth part is configured to receive from the client the characteristic information of the information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information, and

the fifth part is configured to delete the usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium, comprising:  
a part for storing a program for causing a computer to execute a method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving, based on a request of a client, directly connected to a server via a network, using an information recording medium, characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client, the characteristic information identifying the information recording medium;

(b) obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information; and

(c) transmitting to the client authentication information on authorization of reproduction of information from the information recording medium based on the usage information, and thereby enabling the reproduction of said authentication information from the information recording medium,

wherein [[the]] other information reproduced by the client is recorded on the information recording medium before the characteristic information is received.

8. (Original) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

(d) receiving from the client the characteristic information of the information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information; and

(e) deleting the usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium, comprising:  
a part for storing a program for causing a client computer to execute a method, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an information recording medium having characteristic information and other information recorded thereon, the characteristic information identifying the information recording medium;

subsequently, obtaining the characteristic information of the information recording medium;

requesting a server, directly connected to the client computer via a network, to provide information and transmitting the characteristic information to the server so that the server obtains usage information of the information recording medium;

receiving a first information based on the usage information from the server; and

subsequently, reproducing the other information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the first information based on the usage information,

wherein the other information reproduced by the client computer is recorded on the information recording medium before said providing step.